Title: The context as protection: factors that protect the well-being of children in situations of intrafamilial physical abuse

Autors:

Manuela Almeida da Silva Santo, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), manuelassanto@gmail.com

Leonardo Coitinho Santana, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), lcoitinhosantana@gmail.com

Jorge Castellá Sarriera, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), jorgesarriera@gmail.com

Lívia Maria Bedin, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), liviabedin@gmail.com

Physical abuse is the most common type of violence perpetrated against children and adolescents, especially in the family environment. The knowledge about the physical and emotional consequences of this type of violence on child development is already widespread in the scientific community: low self-esteem, anxiety, stress, learning difficulties, isolation, and depression are some of the main emotional consequences reported in cases of child physical abuse. However, additional studies are necessary to know the factors that may protect the well-being of children in adverse situations, in order to subsidiary public policies and preventive actions to strengthen aspects of the children's social support network. Even in the presence of the trauma suffered, this study aimed to know the contextual and individual protective factors of children and adolescents who reported intra-family physical violence. This study is part of the research "Children's Worlds" (ISCWeB), carried out by the Community Psychology Research Group. The instruments of this study consist of a single-item scale to assess subjective well-being, Overall Life Satisfaction (OLS), as well as individual variables (age, levels of selfefficacy and self-esteem) and contextual variables (support from teachers, other family members, and people from the neighborhood, satisfaction with friends, knowledge about their rights, and frequency of playing outside the home) of the participating children and adolescents. Descriptive analyses and hierarchical binary logistic regression were performed to explore the protective factors associated with well-being in maltreated children. Participants were 148 children and adolescents from Porto Alegre-RS with a mean age of 10.11 years old. Initially, using as reference values of the general averages of well-being (including children who had not been assaulted), were explored the average scores of well-being of the total sample of children with reports of domestic violence, where 39.2% presented well-being below the average and 60% presented scores at or above the average - the last category being considered the one of interest (dependent variable) in the regression model. The regression showed a model in which having greater self-efficacy, satisfaction with oneself, having greater support from teachers and other family members, greater knowledge of one's rights, and more time playing outside the home are protective factors that increase the averages of well-being of the individuals analyzed, with the variables together explaining 61% of the adjusted variance of wellbeing $(R^2 = 0.612; p < 0.001)$. The data meets the literature and provides evidence on the factors that can mitigate the damage caused by intrafamily violence, as well as help promote the health of children and adolescents in adverse contexts.